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SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Is it a fact that the Malabar Regional Transport Authority did not recommend fresh permits in order to help monopoly bus-owners who have already got a number of buses in particular areas? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I do not think that is the policy of the Government. During the discussion on the Surcharge Bill, Member after Member got up and said that new permits should not be issued and that the old permits must continue to be in force as otherwise the already meagre profits that they were getting will dwindle."

Construction of a bridge over the Kunderu, Guntur district.

* 860 Q.—SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a request from the District Board, Guntur, to construct a bridge over the Kunderu passing between Ipurupalem and Thotavaripalem; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the same?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The matter has been referred to the Chief Engineer (Irrigation)-I for report and his reply is awaited."

SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH :—" In view of the fact that the people of the villages are experiencing considerable difficulty in crossing this river, will the Hon. Minister for Public Works look into the matter and do something? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" That is why it has been sent to the Chief Engineer for report."

Grant of subsistence loans to tailors, etc., in Rayalaseema.

* 861 Q.—SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Welfare be pleased to state—

(a) on what grounds tailors, barbers, proprietors of small shaving saloons and masons are excluded from the definition of artisans in the matter of granting subsistence loans in Rayalaseema; and

(b) whether the Government propose to reconsider the question?

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" (a) No subsistence loans are granted by the Government to any village artisan in the famine-stricken areas. If ' Subsistence loans ' refer to the loans granted under the Madras Cottage Industries Loans and Subsidy Rules, 1948, on personal security to village artisans in the famine-stricken areas of Rayalaseema, it is true that tailors, barbers, proprietors of small shaving saloons and masons have been excluded from the scope of the grant of loans as they are not eligible for

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the loans. These professional classes are not engaged in the pursuit of any cottage industry. They are not 'artisans' in the real sense of the term, as they are not engaged in the production of any goods but only render manual or professional service.

"(*b*) No."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" Sir, a number of applications from Chittoor and other districts in Rayalaseema have been submitted for the subsistence loans and the cottage industries loans and none of the applicants have been paid. Will the Government please expedite the sanction of these loans? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" I am afraid the hon. Member is confusing cottage industries loan with subsistence loan. Under the Madras Cottage Industries Loans and Subsidy Rules, 1948, the Director of Industries and Commerce is empowered to grant loans up to Rs. 500 on collateral security to persons who want either to start new cottage industries or to develop an existing cottage industrial unit. Naturally, the Director of Industries has to examine the worth of those who offer collateral security and take a decision on the grant of loan. However, in the famine-stricken areas of Rayalaseema to enable the famine-affected artisans, it has been provided as a special case to grant loans up to Rs. 100 only to the artisans on personal security to enable them to eke out a living."

SRI P. V. R. GAJAPATHY RAJU :—" What is the basis on which collateral security is accepted by the Director of Industries? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" I have already explained the basis. The persons must be starting new industries or must be developing the existing cottage industrial unit. In such cases only, collateral security is required from the person who wants the loan."

SRI B. SANKARIAH :—" కరువు ప్రదేశంలో ఉండేటటువంటి బీదలను ఈ కరువునుంచి రక్షించడానికి గదా ఈ సహాయం చేసేది. అటువంటప్పుడు ఈ చెప్పిన tailors మొదలైన వారికి అప్పులిచ్చుటకు ప్రభుత్వం ఆలోచిస్తుందా ? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" బీదలకు చేసే సహాయం అంటే, ఇందు చిన్న పరిశ్రమలు, గృహపరిశ్రమలకు మాత్రమే ఈ department పనిచేస్తుంది. వారికి కొన్ని ప్రత్యేక నిబంధనలు నియమావళి ఉన్నవి. దాని కొరకు ప్రభుత్వంవారు ఈ అప్పు ఏర్పాటు చేస్తున్నారు."

SRI M. VEERABHADRAM :—" ఈ artisans కి అప్పు యివ్వడానికి వీల్లేదన్నారు. మరో విధంగా వారికి అప్పులిచ్చుటకుకాని, బ్రతుకుటకుగాని మార్గం చూపిస్తారా ? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :— " అందుకే ఈ మార్గం చూపిస్తున్నాం."